



## Goodsell Museum

### Local Adirondack History

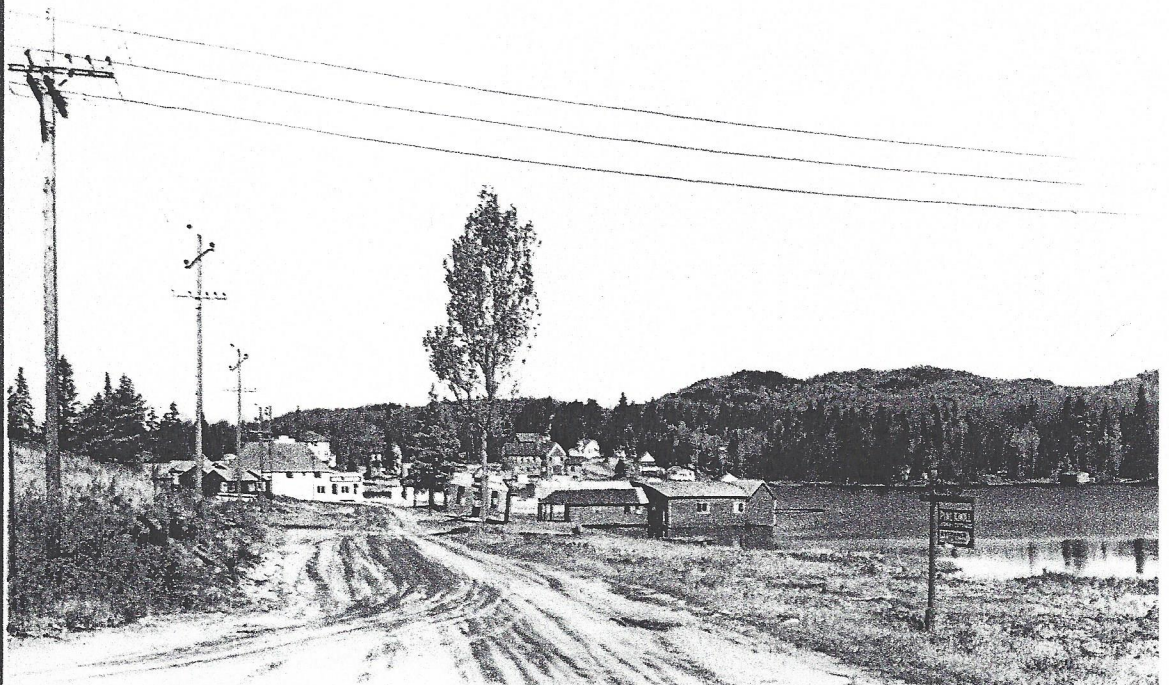
Since the 1970's the Town of Webb Historical Association has been receiving artifacts, ephemera and photographs that document our rich, diverse, interwoven relationships as families, businesses and communities. Many individuals and multiple administrations have acted as stewards of these priceless keepsakes, taking care of *your* history for future generations. One family, in particular, has given our children a priceless gift. We call it the "Weedmark Collection". It contains over 33,000 negatives and hundreds of photos. *Talk about a family album!* Our goal for 2016 is to begin the tedious job of digitizing, archiving and preserving these priceless treasures. To date, over 8,000 museum collection photos have been digitized. We are ready to conquer the negatives. To process these negatives, we need your help.

We need the communities' help.

Please help us by making a monetary donation to T.O.W.H.A. specifically for this need. Once completed, these great gems of our past will be available for the public once again! We will have wedding photos, baby pictures, senior class photos, photos of just about every event in town from the 40' and 50's, 60's and MORE!

I greatly appreciate your generosity, to assist us, in preserving your past!

H. Stuart deCamp, President TOWHA



From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420  
PHONE: 315 369-3838

#### OFFICERS

##### President

Stuart deCamp

##### Vice President

Hans Schmid

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Jane Slack

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Laura Cooper

Martha Denio

Robert Kennerknecht

Lee Minnie

Richard Oehler

Ron Walker

#### DIRECTOR

Kate Lewis

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kristy Rubyor

#### Intern

Claire Hayes

**THANK YOU**

to our volunteers, guest speakers and all who made summer 2015 the best season yet!. We had record numbers sign our guest book, attend our lectures and join us for our fundraisers.

**THANK YOU**

to the Big Moose Community Chapel for its invitation and generosity.

Congratulations to Ed Girtler winner of the 50/50 raffle. Thank you Ed for donating money back to the Historical Association!!



**MEMBERSHIP**

2016 membership renewals will be sent in January. We rely on your support to help us fulfill our mission. Please help us continue our valuable work!

Our membership year runs January - December.

If you are uncertain of your membership status, please give us a call at 315-369-3838 or email: towebbhistorical@gmail.com

**OUR MISSION**

To preserve, protect, restore, and exhibit objects and properties of historic, natural and antiquarian interest from the Town of Webb for the education and enjoyment of the public.



**Help promote our Facebook page. Share our link with a friend.**

# 2015 in Review:

The Town of Webb Historical Association

Published the Goodsell Gazette, our online newsletter (on-going)

**Partnered to provide historical displays, information, assistance:**

Provided props for a Civil War event at the TOW Schools  
 Provided information and artifacts for display at TOW Schools (on-going)  
 Participated in New York State Museum Week  
 Participated in Cycle Adirondacks  
 Participated in Niccolls Church—SHARP (Seniors program)

**Hosted event, meeting or tour:**

Beta Sigma Phi meeting  
 Private cocktail party  
 Pearsall Foundation  
 Kiwanis Paddle Classic  
 Ghost Walk  
 4 First Friday ArtWalks  
 SHARP Seniors Program  
 Reindeer Run  
 Holiday Open House

**Walking Tours:**

Moss Lake - July 10 and August 7

**Completed over 100 research requests:**

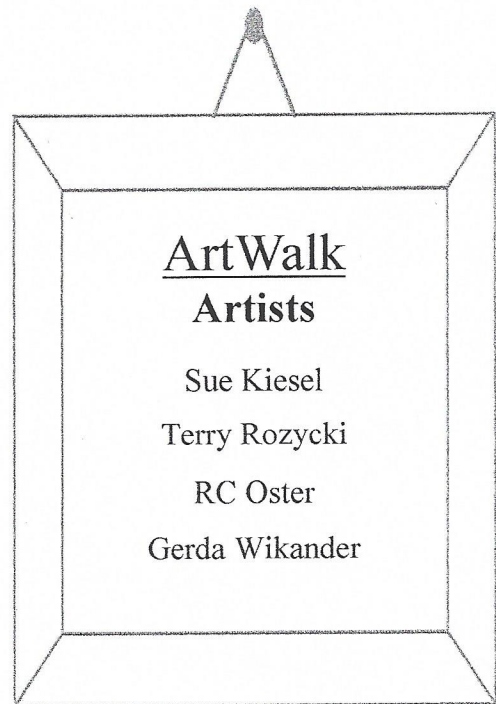
Assisted 10 authors with research material

**Programs:**

Lectures on the Lawn series (7)  
 A Little Moose Love Story: Peg Masters  
 Women Belong in History Books: Jane Spellman  
 Adirondack Outlaws: Niki Kourofsky  
 Early Camps & Hotels on 4th Lake: Bruce Bonfield  
 Haunted Old Forge: Bernadette Peck & Dennis Webster  
 Saving Your Stories: Nancy Best  
 Around the Park in the 1950's: John Taibi  
Big Moose Community Chapel (7)  
 Moss Lake Camp for Girls: Geof Longstaff  
 Eagle Bay History: Dick Williams  
 Big Moose Landing: Charles Herr  
 Adirondack Architecture: Steven Engelhart  
 A Trip to Blue Mt. Lake: Frank Carey  
 Remembering Rev. Dr. Samuel Niccolls: Peg Masters  
 John Muir & Forever Wild: Dick Shore

**Fundraisers:**

- ◆ Recyclable bottles and cans – on-going
- ◆ Billy's Charity Dinners
- ◆ Memorial Day Garage Sale – May
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle May - October
- ◆ Benefit Auction – July 11
- ◆ Mini Golf Tournament - July 16
- ◆ Ghost Walk – August 15
- ◆ Antique Appraisal – August 22
- ◆ McCauley Mt. food tent—September
- ◆ *Judith of the Light*, Psychic Medium



## The Gift of History

History is the account of things said and done in the past. All of us have a history...where we came from and how we became who we are. Our community has a history... who came here, how we came together as a group.

History can inform and educate us by providing the context and perspective that allow us to make thoughtful decisions about the future. History can delight us, it can trouble us. History can enrich our lives, connecting past to present.

Historical organizations help preserve and tell the stories of the past; connect the people, the thoughts and events of yesteryear with present day society. Historical organizations that partner with their communities are leaders in interpreting these traces of the past. Historical organizations, in this way, make the gift of history a living presence in the lives of their communities. They expand our understanding of who we are and what we may become.

Being the keeper of our heritage and history is a weighty responsibility, one that is both daunting and exciting. It is time consuming, challenging and interesting beyond belief. It is both a commitment and a privilege.

Thank you for entrusting me with this mission!

*Kate Lewis*

**When was the last time you visited the  
Historical Association and Goodsell Museum?**

**LOOKING FOR  
THE  
PERFECT GIFT?**

Don't forget about our  
gift shop.

Come in or visit online.

We have something for  
everyone.



## Booze, Ballets, and Bottles

by Peg Masters, Town of Webb Historian

Accusations of "vote-buying" were prevalent during the contentious Republican caucus sessions at Fulton Chain in September 1895. As many as 200 outsiders were reportedly brought in by former Senator Warner Miller's supporters and "*dozens of fights between the backwoodsmen frenzied by bad liquor occurred in which knives and billies were drawn.*" The lumberjacks were headquartered at John Wakley's Hotel forcing him to close the bar when the ruckus got out of hand. There was, however, plenty of beer to be had at Leonard Ingersoll's bottling works near the depot.

Among the surviving remnants of the beverage operations at Fulton Chain at the Goodsell Museum are some wavy glass bottles donated by local amateur archeologists. The bottles, often tossed out the back door of private dwellings and public watering holes, conjure up some interesting political history from more than a century ago.

Several glass bottles labeled "**F. C. Banker – Fulton Chain, N. Y.**" are among the extraordinary artifacts that will be on display in the new exhibit at the Historical Association. Leonard Ingersoll may have been a partner of Frederick Charles Banker. In August 1901, a newspaper reported that Frederick was relocating his bottling works to Despatch, NY near Rochester. A short time later, Ingersoll moved his family to Despatch where he died at the age of 46 in 1908. The cause of death was an apoplexy, more commonly known as a stroke.



"**Tennis Bros – Fulton Chain, N. Y.**" bottles have also been unearthed. Adam, Peter and Jacob Tennis immigrated to the States from Alsace in the 1890s. Adam is shown pouring a pint at their "*Fulton Chain Bottling Works.*" In September 1904, the three brothers expanded their operations at Fulton Chain by purchasing Wakley's Hotel which they sold to Charles Van Auken in 1908.

George B. Ginther was the subsequent long-time proprietor of the *Fulton Chain Bottling Works*. He bottled whiskey and soda pop in the basement and also sold beer. The cost for 24 bottles was one dollar, about one-eighth of a millworker's or lumberjack's weekly wages. George also served as the Town's tax collector for a number of years. He lived on the top floor of his establishment. The ground floor had a room with tables for patrons to play cards, drink, and grumble about their bosses, politicians, taxes, and the weather.

As to that caucus battle in 1895, things did not work out so well for Warner Miller, one of the original trustees in 1890 of the Adirondack League Club. He was narrowly defeated in the election for Governor in 1888 and had aspirations to run again. Despite the support of the Northwood's lumberjacks and farmers who admired his opposition to licensing *oleomargarine*, Warner lost his bid in 1896 to represent Herkimer County at the Statewide Republican caucus in Saratoga. The mainstream Republicans concluded if Warner did not have the support of his county, he could not win a State election.

Members of Warner's party pushed through a new bill in 1896 called the Raines Law. The law imposed a hefty excise tax on licenses for brewers and distillers in an effort to stem the number of saloons that were being established at an alarming rate across the State. The new excise board also issued hotel licenses. A hotel with 10 bedrooms could circumvent the no booze "Sunday" laws by serving liquor to its patrons from 1pm-5pm with their meals. This led to a proliferation of "fake Raines hotels." Innkeepers mocked the law by setting out "brick sandwiches" - two pieces of bread with a brick in between, thus fulfilling the legal requirement of serving food.

Saloons continued to flourish fueling the temperance movement. The booze for ballets battles technically ended abruptly in 1919 with the passage of a brilliant new law called the Volstead Act. More inventive ways of obtaining and selling illegal beverages soon developed of course. But the law did clear out those backyard trash piles of empty booze bottles.

Giving gifts that truly benefit the needs of others can be a wonderful way to pay tribute to special people in your life. Gifts given in honor of family and friends at Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary, birth of a child or grandchild or other notable occasions, are significant and lasting ways to show you care.

### Consider the choices:

There are several ways to make gifts to **TOWHA** in honor or in memory of others:

**Gifts of cash:** These are the most popular vehicles for honoring family and friends. They are convenient and can be tax-deductible.

**Other property:** Memorial and honorary gifts can also be funded with assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value. Gifts of assets, other than cash, often provide tax savings and may also help reduce or eliminate capital gains tax on assets.

### Leave a legacy:

- ◇ A gift included in your **will** or **living trust** can be the foundation of a lasting legacy.
- ◇ A gift of excess **retirement funds**, **pension plans** or **IRA's** may enable you to give more while eliminating taxes that could largely deplete these assets.
- ◇ Gifts of **life insurance** that are no longer needed may offer excellent tax benefits and also be a wonderful way to honor someone.

Because the Town of Webb Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, charitable gifts to us often provide significant tax benefits and considerable options for philanthropic involvement.

**We are thankful to Robert Goodsell for making *his* home *our* home.**

### WE REMEMBER

The Fred Ehrensback family in memory of Robert Lowenberg, Ron & Joyce Leszyk in memory of Sharon Graham, Carol Craft in memory of Sharon Graham, Louise Foley in memory of Helen & John D. Foley, and Sharon Graham, Stuart deCamp and Mary V. Gordon Blankenship in memory of Muriel Marvin, Barb and Doug Criss in memory of Sharon Graham, Tom and Judy Thibado in memory of Muriel Marvin, The Weal Family in memory of the Farmer and Lindsay Families, Judy Slater in memory of Muriel Marvin, Betty Rannels in memory of Muriel Marvin, Susanne Barrett in memory of Muriel Marvin, Edward & Carolyn Mitchell in memory of Muriel Marvin, Ed and Heather Stafford in memory of William "Phil" Christy, Lois Lowenberg in memory of Bob Lowenberg, Robert J. Haughton in memory of Anne M. Haughton, Edward & Heather Stafford in memory of Alan Burstein

### In Honor of:

Linda and Sarah Cohen in honor of Art and Annette Eyre's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Prissy Lee in honor of Ida Winter's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Doc & Judy Foley in honor of Midge McCarthy's Birthday and

Matt Martin's & Barb Green's recent marriage.

